

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support the bill. I support the bill for two reasons. One, it has been a considerable of time since we have raised the licensing fees for motor vehicles. There is two bills in the Revenue Committee. One bill raised the fees across the board providing most of the money to the Highway Trust Fund. This bill provides one quarter of the fees to the Highway Trust Fund and what it tries to do is it tries to give back to the county treasurers or to the counties basically their costs in doing the paperwork and the work necessary to process the fee structure. I think we were looking, the Revenue Committee made the decision to put LB 404 out on the floor simply because this was the preferable way to go than the other general across the board increase. LB 404 sends the money back to each county treasurer, sends it back to each county, since the revenues raised will be raised back there and it adds a quarter, one quarter, additional dollars to the Highway Trust Fund. I think it is a reasonable compromise. I think Senator Kremer was farsighted when he offered this sort of proposal. It certainly will help out county governments. We have put a lot of pressure on county governments in recent days with the effects of other tax legislation, the property tax base for county governments is being eroded and I think this is a reasonable approach. It is a modest approach, and while Senator Keyes' concern is that it raises dollars, it does in fact do that but they are badly needed dollars. It really is just a replacement for the work they are presently doing at the cost presently being charged for the processing of fees. So I support the bill and I would hope that most of the rest of the members would realize that it has been since 1967, I believe. Senator Kremer, can you nod? It has been 1967 since the last fees increase, isn't that correct? So really we are talking about better than ten years. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I don't see this as raising the taxes. I see that it is a more fairly distribution if, as Senator Kremer said, they had proof that it costs a dollar to process this licensing then someone is paying it and who is it? It is the entire population. A lot of people don't have cars and they are paying it the same as the people who have the cars. To me, if you own a vehicle, then you are going to pay for the privilege of just paying the cost of doing it. So it is either going to be paid that way or is going to be paid in real estate tax, about as simple as that, and either way, it really